



# Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park



## "Fireside Chat — Message from the Superintendent"

Welcome to Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park's first newsletter. We plan to use this newsletter to keep you informed of the latest happenings and encourage you to participate in the development and success of this new National Park in Richmond, California.

The Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park is one of our nation's newest National Parks. On October 24, 2000, President Clinton signed the legislation putting Richmond on the National Park Service map along with such well known parks as Yosemite,



Dedication of City of Richmond's Rosie the Riveter Memorial, Oct. 14, 2000

Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon. Congress created this park to tell the story of America's Home Front during World War II.

Please visit our website at: [www.nps.gov/rori/](http://www.nps.gov/rori/).

This first newsletter is focused on one primary topic – inviting you to participate in the planning process for Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park.

This planning process is critical to the future of this park. We want to know what you would like to see and do in this park and how the park can contribute to your community and your country. Sharing your vision will ensure a strong public voice to help guide us.

Please see our feature article on one of the Park's most important plans – the General Management Plan. The public comment period to gather ideas for the park is open until the end of August. Please send us your comments to the mailing address of this newsletter, or email your comment to us at [rori\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:rori_gmp@nps.gov) by August 31st, 2002.

We are also seeking to gather your personal memories of the home front. People's individual stories during WWII are a treasure trove of inspiration. Please see the "I Want You" section of this newsletter on how to share your stories with us.

In order for the park to be a success and for the "We Can Do It" spirit to carry on, we need your stories and your participation in our planning process. We hope to hear from you!

*Judy Hart*



## *Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park Begins Its General Management Plan*

The National Park Service is beginning to develop a General Management Plan (GMP) for the park. The GMP is a plan that the National Park Service prepares for every National Park Service site. The GMP will establish a vision for the park, and guide decision making and management of the park for the next ten to fifteen years.

This park is truly a partnership park, depending on the public and the park partners to create a vital and meaningful park.

The Congressional legislation that created the park directed the National Park Service to prepare the GMP in consultation with the City of Richmond, which owns and manages many of the park sites. The NPS also will be working closely with other owners of park sites, including Contra Costa County and the Richmond Museum Association, as well as numerous other partners.

The legislation specifies that the GMP should include:

- a "plan to preserve the historic setting", to be jointly developed and approved by the City of Richmond.
- a determination of whether additional sites in Richmond should be added to the park; and

- a determination of which additional sites in the rest of the United States should be linked to and interpreted at the park.

Please help us with your ideas! The National Park Service has held a number of public meetings in July and early August to gather ideas for the GMP. We are still seeking comments, and we welcome your ideas throughout the planning process.

What are your ideas for the park, now and in the future?

What would you like the visitors to be able to do?

What concerns to you have about the development of the park?

Send your ideas and comments to the address of this newsletter or e-mail them to us at [rori\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:rori_gmp@nps.gov). If you have questions about the planning process, please contact Martha Crusius, GMP project manager, at the same e-mail and address.

Please refer to the "We Can Do It" section for details on the GMP schedule and important upcoming dates.

Ford Assembly Building, used for tank production during World War II. A private developer is renovating this building. The NPS plans to have a visitor education center in a portion of the building.



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### **Initial public comment period July - August, 2002**

This is the public's initial opportunity to help set the direction of the GMP. The comment period formally closes August 30, 2002, but we welcome your ideas at any time. Public comments in the form of letters or e-mails will be combined with input received at public meetings held in July and early August to begin developing alternatives for the future of the park.

### **Development of Alternatives August 2002 to January 2003**

Using the comments and input from the initial comment period, several alternative visions of the park will be developed. These draft alternatives will be shared with you in a future newsletter.

### **Draft GMP/EIS January 2002 to October 2003**

The NPS will prepare a draft GMP/ Environmental Impact Statement including alternatives, cost estimates, and analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts. The draft plan will be distributed to our mailing list in October 2003, and posted on the park website. The NPS will organize public meetings and other opportunities for you to comment.

### **Final GMP - June 2004**

The draft GMP will be revised as needed and a preferred alternative will be selected. The final GMP will be transmitted to the US Congress.



## Supporting the Park



We are seeking your stories about life on the WWII Home Front. What do you remember about the workplace, day care, recreation, medical care, or family life, in Richmond or elsewhere?

We invite you to send us your story or the story of someone you know. What work did you do? Where did you live? What did you do for fun? What challenges did you face? How did the war effort change your life?

You can mail us the story to the address of this newsletter. Send us your name,

address, and phone number along with your story. We may contact you for an interview! Please do this before these important stories are lost forever.

We know many of you have keepsakes and mementos from this period — badges, clothes, equipment, letters, paperwork, and pictures, that you would like to donate to us and have them preserved. We are currently working on how and where to do this. We hope to have more concrete information for you on how to do this in our next newsletter.

## The National Park Service and its Partners

Our park staff is growing! We are pleased to announce the arrival of the following new employees at Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park. Nicole and Peg will be with us until early August. Rick is a new permanent employee, coming to us from Yosemite National Park.

Rick Smith – Projects Manager, Chief of Interpretation

Nicole Kelly – Seasonal Park Ranger – Presenting Public and Community Programs

Peg Balachowski – Seasonal Park Ranger – Planning for Future Children's Programs



Many organizations and individuals are key partners in making this park a success. The following organizations are long term partners in that effort.

**City of Richmond**, owns most of the properties in the park.

**Contra Costa County**, owns the Child Development Centers included in the park.

**Richmond Museum Association** owns and manages the S.S. Red Oak Victory

We are also in the initial stages of formalizing an agreement with the **Rosie the Riveter Trust**.



This photo shows many of the park sites including: the Richmond Kaiser Shipyard #3, the Ford Assembly Building, the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, the Bay Trail, "Shipyard Stories" at Vincent Park, and the Shimada Friendship Park.



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Rosie the Riveter / World War II**  
**Home Front National Historical Park**  
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[www.nps.gov/rori/](http://www.nps.gov/rori/)

*We hope you'll participate actively in the development of the Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park. However, if you'd like to be removed from the park's mailing list, please contact the park.*

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

***Park contact information***

**write to:** Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park  
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